

FISCAL NOTE

Bill #: HB0255

Title: Increase felony threshold for property crimes

Primary

Sponsor: Shiell Anderson

Status: As introduced

Sponsor signature	Date	Dave Lewis, Budget Director	Date
-------------------	------	-----------------------------	------

Fiscal Summary

	<u>FY2000</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY2001</u> <u>Difference</u>
Expenditures:	\$0	\$0
Revenue:	\$0	\$0
Net Impact on General Fund Balance:	\$0	\$0

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	
	X	Significant Local Gov. Impact		X	Technical Concerns
	X	Included in the Executive Budget		X	Significant Long-Term Impacts

Fiscal Analysis

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. The Department of Corrections (DOC) assumes that this bill will not significantly impact the number of offenders currently charged for felony property crimes. While not measurable, it is the DOC belief that the majority of offenders sent to the DOC, for the crimes listed in this bill, are for crimes involving property valued above \$1,000. Therefore neither prison populations nor probation caseloads would be significantly reduced. A judgment sample of 22 adult theft instances showed that only one of these cases may have been affected by this law change.
2. The DOC assumes that this bill will not significantly impact juvenile placement costs. The DOC uses a juvenile offender guideline system that determines the reasonableness of juvenile placement. This guideline system places a greater factor on criminal behavior chronicity, than it does the legal category (misdemeanor vs. felony) of a crime.
3. There is no fiscal impact to the Department of Revenue.
4. There is no fiscal impact to the Department of Justice.

EFFECT ON COUNTY OR OTHER LOCAL REVENUES OR EXPENDITURES:

The effect on county and local expenditures is not measurable, but the DOC does not believe that they will be significant. Missoula, Rosebud and Yellowstone counties have county probation offices with a supervision option. This bill may increase their workload. Also, since this bill may increase those offenses classified as misdemeanor, the lower courts may experience more court cases.